

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126060

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 08811 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LENINGRAD  
GEORGETOWN, KINGSTON, LONDON, PORT OF SPAIN, AND PEKING  
DATED MAY10, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 08811

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: GY, EAID, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET-GUYANESE COMMUNIQUE ON BURNHAM VISIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 8070, (B) MOSCOW 8368

SUMMARY: SOVIET-GUYANESE COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT TO SOVIET UNION OF GUYANESE PM BURNHAM HEAVILY REFLECTS SOVIET LINE. STILL, THERE IS SOME INDICATION, EVEN IN THIS SYCOPHANTIC DOCUMENT, OF LESS THAN ABSOLUTE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS. PROBLEM MAY CENTER ON DIFFERENT APPROACH OF TWO COUNTRIES TOWARD NEW, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, BUT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS IS ONLY INFERENTIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 23 CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES TEXT OF JOINT SOVIET-GUYANESE COMMUNIQUE ON BURNHAM VISIT. ASSUME DEPT. HAS FULL TEXT. EMBASSY WILL NOT SUMMARIZE THIS EXHAUSTIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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DOCUMENT BUT WILL SIMPLY NOTE SOME OF MORE INTERESTING POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

-- CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION CAN BE INFERRRED FROM PHRASE "BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" DESPITE COMMUNIQUE'S CLEAR EMPHASIS ON THOSE MANY ISSUES ON WHICH TWO SIDES HAD SAME OPINION,

AND DESPITE DESCRIPTION OF ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS AS ONE OF "CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING;"

-- SOVIET SIDE, IN APPLAUDING GUYANA'S "STEPS" TOWARD SOCIAL-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY WAS MORE RESTRAINED THAN BURNHAM. BURNHAM HAD REFERRED TO "FIRM STEPS...TO LAY THE BASIS OF SOCIALISM" IN GUYANA. COMMENT: MOSCOW IS OFTEN MORE CAUTIOUS IN CATEGORIZING THE LEFTWARD TILT OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THAN ARE THE LEADERS OF THOSE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. END COMMENT.

-- ECHOING REPORT OF APRIL 17 TALKS (REF A), TWO SIDES EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF "EXPANSION OF AGREED-UPON BASIS" OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IN SUCH AREAS AS TRADE, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, MARITIME FISHING AND SHRIMPING. TWO SIDES PLEDGED TO WORK TOWARD FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TIES IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL "AND OTHER" TIES AND TO DEVELOP "COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL AREA." COMMENT: WHILE PHRASE "AND OTHER" IN THIS CONTEXT IS COMMON EUPHEMISM FOR MILITARY COOPERATION, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT THIS IS THE CASE IN THIS INSTANCE. END COMMENT.

-- TWO SIDES NOTE IMPORTANCE OF "POLITICAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTS OF BOTH STATES" AS WELL AS FURTHER CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS.

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-- ON "MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT PROBLEMS", TWO SIDES APPROVINGLY NOTE "COINCIDENCE OR NEARNESS OF POINTS OF VIEW" - A FURTHER INDICATION OF AT LEAST SOME DIFFERENCES - THIS PHRASE IS REPEATED FROM REPORT ON BURNHAM-BREZHNEV MEETING ON APRIL 19 (REF B).

-- ON LENGTHY LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, THERE IS NO REAL HINT OF WHAT THESE DIFFERENCES MIGHT BE ALTHOUGH WE DO NOTE THAT GUYANESE SIGNED ON TO BASIC SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF NEED FOR "RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS." SINCE GUYANESE INTERPRETATION AS DESCRIBED BY BURNHAM IN HIS APRIL 17 DINNER SPEECH TO KOSYGIN DIFFERED CONSIDERABLY FROM THAT OF HIS SOVIET HOSTS, THIS ISSUE MAY VERY WELL REPRESENT A CONTINUING PROBLEM AREA BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES (REF A).

-- AN UNUSUAL NOTE IS STRUCK BY TWO SIDES' POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF CUBAN SUCCESS IN "SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION" AND OF CUBAN POLICY WHICH IS "EXAMPLE" FOR OTHER COUNTRIES STRUGGLING FOR THEIR FREEDOM, RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE.

2. COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE APPEARS AS A MODEL OF SUCH DOCUMENTS WHICH SOVIET UNION WOULD LIKE TO SIGN WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. APART FROM CHINA, VIRTUALLY EVERY INTERNATIONAL ISSUE OF INTEREST TO SOVIET SIDE IS TOUCHED UPON - AND IN SOVIET TERMS. BUT WHETHER THIS EXAMPLE OF DIPLOMATIC SYCOPHANCY WILL BE SIGNIFICANT IN GETTING THE GUYANESE TANGIBLE RESULTS IN THEIR SEARCH FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND POLITICAL SUPPORT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

TOON UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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